



Locality/Agencies:

Clarke County Sheriff's Office
Berryville Police Department
Clarke County Communications

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Common Language Migration Clarke County Sheriff's Office, Berryville Police Department, and Clarke County Communications

The Clarke County Sheriff's Office is a 20 person full service Sheriff's Office covering 174 square miles with an approximate population of 14,000 citizens. The Berryville Police Department is a 9 person department covering 2 square miles with an approximate population of 5,000 citizens. The Clarke County Communications Office dispatches for the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, and the local volunteer/paid fire departments and rescue squads.

In Spring 2005, these agencies decided to move from coded language to plain English to improve interoperable communications in the area and beyond. Migration began soon after the decision was made by developed a list of standardized plain English phrases to replace the 10-code system.

One major challenge that was faced during this migration was the "learning curve" for dispatchers and officers, especially during high volume, stressful situations. The transition phased out approximately 20 codes that were in regular use.

Task	Status	Tools Available*
Development of standard plain English phrases	The list has been developed and is know being used across the County	List of common phrases

* Tools are provided at www.interoperability.virginia.gov